HALIFAX

2022 Beach Monitoring Protocol

Presentation to RWAB
June 9, 2022

2022 Beach Monitoring Protocol

- Protocol Overview

- Fecal Bacteria
- Cyanobacteria

Protocol Overview

- Monitoring at supervised beaches
  - Canadian Recreational Water Quality Guidelines
  - Beaches staff
  - Certified laboratory partners
    - BV Labs
    - Bio-Limno Research & Consulting

Fecal Bacteria

- Routine monitoring program
  - Weekly sampling
  - Results given as geometric mean

- Triggers for beach closure
  - *E. coli* geomean of 5 samples – 200CFU/100mL
  - *Enterococci* geomean of 5 samples – 35 CFU/100mL

Fecal Bacteria

- Retest immediately
  - Make note of conditions at the time of exceedance
- Re-open when results are below guideline values

Cyanobacteria

- Cyanobacteria ID Training
- Suspicious and suspected blooms
- Triggers for beach closure
  - Samples collected for ID at Bio-Limno
  - Presence/absence of toxin-producing species
  - Total microcystins below 20µg/L

Cyanobacteria

- Wait for visible bloom to dissipate
- After seven days with no visible bloom, sample for microcystin analysis
- Re-open beach when total microcystins are below guideline values
  - Lab results
  - Abraxis test strips

Reporting

- Beaches staff
  - Posting signage
  - Remaining on site during closure
- Public Affairs
- NS Environment and Climate Change
  - Environmental Health
  - Compliance and Enforcement